

RESOLUTION 16-09-49

A RESOLUTION OF THE VILLAGE COUNCIL OF ISLAMORADA, VILLAGE OF ISLANDS, FLORIDA, EXPRESSING OPPOSITION TO SEISMIC BLASTING AND OFFSHORE DRILLING ACTIVITIES; PROVIDING FOR TRANSMITTAL; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE

WHEREAS, the wise stewardship of our natural resources involves the protection of Florida's water resources and natural environment for generations to come; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) is currently in the process of trying to open the Mid and South Atlantic Ocean to the exploration and development of offshore oil and gas by including risky methods such as seismic blasting; and

WHEREAS, seismic air-guns fire intense blasts of compressed air, one of the loudest manmade sounds in the ocean at 200-230 decibels, every 10 seconds, 24 hours a day for periods of weeks to months that could prove harmful or injure and kill dolphins, whales, endangered sea turtles, fish, and other marine life; and

WHEREAS, the full impacts of seismic blasting and offshore drilling in the Atlantic Ocean are not yet fully understood by scientists, the oil and gas industry, BOEM, or the Federal Government; and

WHEREAS, exploratory and commercial drilling, extraction, and transportation of offshore oil and gas resources pose a significant risk of an oil spill and leakage of other toxic waste; and

WHEREAS, eventual offshore drilling may require significant onshore infrastructure, such as pipelines or refineries, which may harm the character of the coastline; and

WHEREAS, offshore drilling activities pose threats to treasured vacation destinations on Florida's Coasts, which are of intrinsic economic value for numerous industries, serve as essential nursery habitats for recreational and commercially important fisheries, and act as natural buffers from storm surge and hurricanes; and

WHEREAS, Islamorada, Village of Islands (“Islamorada” or the “Village”) recognizes that tourism and fishing related to a healthy and vibrant coastal environment both serve as major economic drivers benefiting the current and future residents, property owners and visitors to Florida; and

WHEREAS, Islamorada endeavors to be a good steward of the state and region’s environment and its resources; and

WHEREAS, the exploration and development of oil and gas off the coasts of Florida will not effectively address the long-term energy needs of our country; and

WHEREAS, the Village Council of Islamorada, Village of Islands (the “Village Council”) is elected to represent the best interests of Village residents; and

WHEREAS, the Village Council has determined that it would be more economically and ecologically responsible to pursue non-polluting sources of renewable energy that pose less risk to the coastal environment and economic health before using uncertain methods of seismic blasting for offshore oil and gas exploration; and

WHEREAS, the Village Council finds that opposing seismic blasting and offshore drilling activities in the Atlantic Ocean is in the best interest of Islamorada and its residents.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE VILLAGE COUNCIL OF ISLAMORADA, VILLAGE OF ISLANDS, FLORIDA, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. **Recitals.** The above recitals are true and correct and are incorporated herein by this reference.

Section 2. **Opposing Seismic Airgun Testing and Offshore Drilling in the Atlantic Ocean.** Seismic airgun testing for oil and gas exploration and drilling for oil and natural gas in the Atlantic Ocean will put Florida’s environment, beaches, marine resources and local economies at risk. Therefore, due to the potential harmful impacts on the residents, environment, and natural resources of Islamorada, the Village Council hereby expresses its opposition to these

activities and urges the Federal Government to stop this process and ensure the vitality of vulnerable local economies on Florida's coast.

Section 3. **Transmittal.** The Village Clerk is directed to transmit a copy of this resolution to Abigail Ross Hopper, Director of the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management; The Honorable Sally Jewell, Secretary of the U.S. Department of the Interior; and Gary D. Goeke, Chief of the Environmental Assessment Section of the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) Gulf of Mexico OCS Region.

Section 4. **Effective Date.** This resolution shall become effective immediately upon its adoption.

Motion to adopt by Vice Mayor Jim Mooney, seconded by Councilman Mike Forster.

FINAL VOTE AT ADOPTION

VILLAGE COUNCIL OF ISLAMORADA, VILLAGE OF ISLANDS

Mayor Deb Gillis	YES
Vice Mayor Jim Mooney	YES
Councilman Mike Forster	YES
Councilman Chris Sante	ABSENT
Councilman Dennis Ward	YES

PASSED AND ADOPTED ON THIS 8TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2016.



DEB GILLIS, MAYOR

ATTEST:



KELLY TOTH, VILLAGE CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY
FOR THE USE AND BENEFIT OF ISLAMORADA,
VILLAGE OF ISLANDS ONLY



ROGET V. BRYAN, VILLAGE ATTORNEY